

1/16/14

I Oppose Bill 69

Aloha Budget Committee Chair and Members,

Bill 69 looks to raise 2-8 million dollars. The cost to do this is the weakening of the state ban on outdoor advertising.

This bill, with or without amendments possibility / probability of "freedom of speech" lawsuits risks the integrity of our billboard law.

If I were a budget committee member, I would be looking for easier and less risky sources of revenue. Fortunately, it is staring you in the face.

There are many laws on the books, with associated fines, that are not enforced.

Illegal short term rentals.

Illegal commercial activities.

Littering.

Smoking on beaches.

Numerous driving violations.

Rolling through stop signs.

Cellphone use.

Texting while driving.

Distracted driving - like reading billboards on busses.

Parking violations. On and on.

The police are too busy with more serious crimes to fully enforce many of these laws.

I suggest the budget committee stand up and do something to enforce ALL of our laws.

If additional police are too expensive, Hire a private company to write tickets to enforce our laws where appropriate.

Let the company keep 25-50 percent of collected fines. I am sure the cite would have no problem hiring a business to do this. It could even create local jobs.

The amount of money available for collection, with no new taxes, will far surpass the 2-8 million dollars collected by Bill 69.

And it won't compromise the beauty of our islands.

Think outside the box.

I urge you to stand up and find a better solution than Bill 69.

I urge you to stand up and protect our islands.

I urge you to defer Bill 69

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